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EDITORIAL

LAY THIS ONE OUT COLD.

The bill introduced yesterday by Representative Farris of Duval County, to terminate the trust of the Internal Improvement Trustees and to make final disposition of the funds in the custody of the trustees, may be placed in the category of flotsam and jetsam legislation that will be fired at the Internal Improvement Trustees throughout the session.

The provisions of the Farris bill could result in doing nothing of profit to the State, and might result in entailing upon the State a heavy loss of the funds held in trust by the trustees.

The practical effect of the Farris measure would be to withdraw from the aggressive position taken by the trustees against the railroads and canal companies, in denying their rights to lands which they claim under legislative grant.

Mr. Farris would have the Attorney General file a bill in equity in behalf of the trustees for directions as to the final distribution and disposition of all the remaining assets and properties of the fund.

The main purpose of the Farris bill appears to be to get rid of this property belonging to the State as quickly as possible, to save the trustees the expense of fighting the suits and the odium of criticism.

Mr. Farris is thoughtful of the feelings of the trustees. He feels the hostile atmosphere of criticism for the trustees even as the pioneer tendrils of a budding plant reach out and test the surroundings in which it is born to strive.

Representative Farris suggests a unique plan for getting rid of criticism, but it cannot by any means be considered economical.

Get rid of criticism, says Farris, by getting rid of the trust.

Be rid of the stigma, says Farris, by giving the property away.

Don't fight, says Farris, for you become soiled when you do.

I believe, Mr. Farris, that the trustees are made of sterner stuff. They have managed to face the criticism so far—a little more or less won't seriously inconvenience them.

You have heard about the man who fed on camel's neck. He didn't like it at first. But after a while he came to like camel's neck so well that he wouldn't have anything else.

It doesn't make any difference how many bills in equity the Attorney General might file, but wouldn't alter the standing of the cases now under adjudication. All claims of the railroads and canal companies are in the courts, and in time they will be settled.

And when they are the people may have something left, but they wouldn't have if the Farris bill should pass.

Lay for the Farris bill, and when you do get a chance—Lay it out cold.

True Snobbishness.

Untold depths of snobbishness among freeborn Americans seem to be revealed by a recent incident that is worthy of a place in literature. A wealthy and cultured family of good ancestry, but who did not happen to figure as social leaders in a certain city, received invitations for a wedding among people whom they knew very well, but whose social aspirations were rather more pronounced than their own. The gift selected for the bride was a beautiful clock. It was bought at one of the best shops, and the cards of the givers were left to be sent with the clock at a certain date. Time passed, the wedding came off, but no acknowledgment reached the people who sent the clock. The clerk remembered shipping it with the cards, but nothing further was known until a mutual friend of the two families was moved to make inquiries of the bride's mother. This lady seemed to be a little vague about it, but it eventually transpired that the ambitious young bride had removed the cards of the donors and had substituted that of a conspicuous society leader with whom she happened to have the merest calling acquaintance.—Harper's Bazar.

The Rainy and the Dry Days.

The owner of the ranch in one of the arid regions of the great west was entertaining an eastern relative. He showed him over his broad acres, spoke of the difficulties that had been overcome in making the desert blossom as the rose and outlined his plans for the future.

"But is it possible," asked the visitor, "to make more than a bare living on such land and in such a climate as this?"

"It is. I have made considerably more than a bare living on this land."

"I am glad to hear it, Cyrus. Then you have something laid by for a rainy day, have you?"

"Not exactly," rejoined the host with a laugh. "On the contrary, with the help of an occasional rainy day, I have managed to lay something by for the dry days."—Youth's Companion.

The Mohammedan Oath.

One of the most picturesque forms of administering the oath is that followed by the Mohammedans. The witness places his right hand flat upon the Koran, puts the other on his forehead and then brings his forehead down until it is in contact with the book. Then he stands erect and looks steadfastly up for some seconds. The officer of the court asks the witness, "Are you bound by the ceremony you have performed to speak the truth?" The answer is, "I am."

To the Buddhist witness the officer of the court says: "You declare as in the presence of Buddha that you are unprejudiced, and if what you speak shall prove false or if by your coloring truth others shall be led astray, then may the three holy existences—viz, Buddha, Dhamma and Phro Sangha—in whose light you now stand, together with the glorious devotees of the twenty-two firmaments, punish you and also your migrating soul." The witness places his hand on the zendavesta and says, "I swear that the evidence I shall give shall be the truth, by God, by God omnipresent, by God omnipotent, the God Almighty."

French Ignorance of the Bible.

As to the utter ignorance of the ordinary Frenchman of the Bible, Mr. Stead gave a curious illustration in his own experience. At the general election of 1900 he published a political pamphlet entitled "The Candidates of Cain," dedicated to all candidates who approved of the Boer war. A French publisher asked to be allowed to bring the pamphlet out in a French translation in Paris. "But," he said, "you must give us another title. Nobody in France knows who Cain is." On Mr. Stead repeating this to some literary friends in Paris they declared the publisher was right. "Are none of the Biblical characters known to this generation of Frenchmen?" Mr. Stead asked. "Not one," was the astonishing reply. "Nobody reads the Bible in France."—Westminster Gazette.

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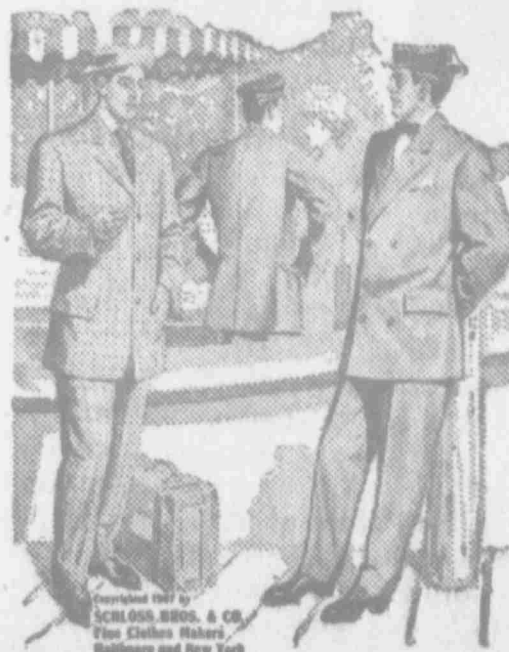
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